SUBJECTS.

the Excise chowkey or in some other place and the building used for the school. In view to stir up the people to realize the value of education and to induce them to send all their children to school, he requested that some fee concessions should also be allowed, at least for some time.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

**128. The need for more Government Schools in the taluks of Mooyattupuzha, Thodupuzha and Kunnathnad.**

*Mr. Tharayathu Kunji Thommen* (Member, Moovattupuzha taluk), said that the taluks of Moovattupuzha, Thodupuzha and Kunnathnad were the most backward of all the taluks of the State in point of education. The population of the three taluks amounted to nearly 3 lakhs but there were not even three graduates among them. The educational needs of those taluks were not properly attended to by the Government. He therefore proposed that Lower Grade Secondary Schools, at the rate of one for every 50,000 people, Higher Grade Elementary Schools at the rate of one for every 20,000 people, and Lower Grade Elementary Schools at the rate of one per 100 houses, should be started by the Government at an early date. The want of a sufficient number of pupils in some of the schools in the beginning should not cause the abolition of the schools; but if schools be opened, boys would be coming in, and men like himself would be ready to work for it. The Member also prayed that the Government should not throw upon the inhabitants of those taluks the entire responsibility of finding their buildings for all Lower Grade Elementary Schools, as in other parts of the State. He laid special stress on the urgent need for the immediate opening of a Lower Grade Secondary School for the northern half of the Moovattupuzha taluk. He also requested that, as an incentive to education, some fee concessions might be allowed to the schools in the three taluks, at least for a specified period of years, and when the people took to education readily, the concession might be gradually withdrawn.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted. The needs of the three taluks are receiving attention. It will not be possible to have a special rate of fees for these schools.

**129. The necessity for establishing a Lower Grade Secondary School at Perumbavur.**

*Mr. Govindan Govindan* (Member, Kunnathnad taluk) observed that, of the total population of 1,18,000 in the taluk, 29,000 were children. The proportion of literacy to the total population was three-fourths in 1,000. Kunnathnad was one of the few taluks which had no English school. The Director of Public Instruction, while he recently visited the taluk, expressed himself in favour of opening a Lower Grade Secondary School at Perumbavur. He requested that the Government might be pleased to sanction the school without delay. The people would undertake to find the building for the school.

*Dewan's reply.*—A school will soon be started at Perumbavur. The matter is under correspondence.

**130. The need for a Higher Grade Secondary School at Alwaye.**

*Mr. M. Kunju Khadir Pillai* (Member, Nominated) said that the rapidly rising importance of the town of Alwaye, its daily increasing population, easy access to it by means of boat, cart and the rail, and the proverbial healthiness of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

locality made it very desirable to have a Higher Grade Secondary School at Alwaye. The town was situated centrally for the taluks of Alengad, Kunnathnad, Moovattupuzha and Thodupuzha, all of which were backward in point of education. The nearest Higher Grade Secondary School was at Parur, at a distance of 10 miles from Alwaye. The unhealthy nature of that town and the want of a hostel attached to the school afforded the least temptation for pupils from other parts to go and live in Parur to prosecute their studies. That a sufficient number of pupils could be had if a Higher Grade Secondary School were started at Alwaye was proved by the successful working of the local St. Mary's Higher Grade Secondary School. Within one year of its existence its strength rose to 400. The Member therefore requested that the Lower Grade Secondary School at Alwaye should be raised to the Higher Grade. It meant time and an enormous initial expenditure for the acquisition of site and the construction of a suitable building. If the Government were not prepared to undertake it at present, he suggested, as an alterrative, the recognition of the existing St. Mary's Higher Grade Secondary School. He added that the building, staff of teachers, accommodation, school books, appliances etc., at present in the school, satisfied the conditions of the Code. The school was also conducted on non-sectarian lines. If that were done, the Departmental Lower Grade Secondary School at Alwaye could be conveniently shifted to Edappalli, where the people were crying for one for the last so many years and the initial expenditure for starting a Higher Grade Secondary School at Alwaye would be saved to the Government.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

131. The establishment of a Lower Grade Secondary School at Munambom.

*Mr. P. K. Kochuvavu* (Member, Nominated) said that there was no school of any kind at Munambom. There was an English school conducted by a church fund which was no longer in existence. The want of a school there was being very badly felt. He therefore prayed that a Lower Grade Secondary School be opened at Munambom with a teacher to teach the Arabic language. He added that Government sites were available for the purpose.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

## VIII.—Religious and Charitable Institutions.

132. Certain defects in the recent Devaswom reforms.

*Mr. G. Venkatarama Iyer* (Member, T. I. C., Vaikom) thanked the Government for having paid the deepest attention and consideration to the important question of Devaswoms and their management. While he appreciated many of the wholesome provisions of the G. O. re-organising the Devaswoms, he objected to the following, *viz.*, (1) the change in the long-standing Devaswom policy of the Government necessitated by political events, (2) the separation of the Devaswom properties at present, (3) the reduction in the *purathepaditharams* with regard to the most important temples, and (4) the stopping of all expenditure in certain temples. He also laid stress on the necessity for a popular element in the management of the Devaswoms.

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